The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for the production of a cooled ring insert ~~(1)~~, consisting of a gray casting alloy having a nickel content, for an aluminum piston of an internal combustion engine, to be produced using the casting method, having a cooling channel ~~(6)~~ formed on the ring insert back ~~(3)~~, as a turned groove ~~(4)~~ that is open towards the bottom, ~~characterized by~~ comprising the following steps:

- salt granulate is pressed into the turned groove ~~(4)~~ at a pressure of 100 to 300 N/mm^2, so that a salt core ~~(5)~~ is formed in the turned groove ~~(4)~~;

- the combination consisting of the ring insert ~~(1)~~ and the salt core ~~(5)~~ is pre-heated to a temperature of 200°C to 250°C; and

- the combination consisting of the ring insert ~~(1)~~ and the salt core ~~(5)~~ is dipped into an alfin bath consisting of an aluminum melt.

2. (Currently Amended) Method for the production of a cooled ring insert ~~(1)~~ as recited in claim 1, ~~**characterized in that**~~ wherein the combination consisting of the ring insert ~~(1)~~ and the salt core ~~(5)~~ combination is dipped into an alfin bath consisting of an aluminum melt for 2½ to 5½ minutes.

3. (Currently Amended) Method for the production of a cooled ring insert ~~(1)~~, consisting of a gray casting alloy having a nickel content, for an aluminum piston of an internal combustion engine, to be produced using the casting method, having a cooling channel formed on the ring insert back, as a turned groove that is open towards the bottom, comprising the following steps: ~~as recited in claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that**~~

- a finished, pressed salt core ~~(5)~~ is placed into the turned groove ~~(4)~~, and attached in the turned groove ~~holder (4)~~ by means of an adhesive bond[[.]];

- the combination consisting of the ring insert and the salt core is pre-heated to a temperature of 200°C to 250°C; and

- the combination consisting of the ring insert and the salt core is dipped into an alfin bath consisting of an aluminum melt.